

## FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

*The Truth shall set you free!*

In our *sophisticated* “Western Culture,” through all our *education* and *worldly experience*, we seem to have *refined* the simple notion that sin is our problem.

We have replaced the word *sin* with “addiction,” “disease,” “weakness,” “mistake,” “bad decision,” etc/

I don’t argue with the fact that addiction exists! Actually, the Bible tells us that all sin is addictive.

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”  
- John 8:34

The issue is, “Is addiction sin?” And does the sin of drunkenness need to be handled differently from the sin of getting high, or the sin of kleptomania, or lust, or gluttony, or rage, or laziness, or apathy, or whatever?

If you agree that these issues are indeed sin, then to believe that the Bible is insufficient to deal with them is to say that the Bible is inadequate to deal with its primary purpose: *to set us free from sin!*

So, let’s allow the unbelievers to deal with addictions in their way, and we believers will trust in Jesus to set us free from sin!

## FROM ROMANS, CHAPTER SIX

(Please, open your Bible and study along.)

In the first few verses, we learn that when we put our faith & trust in Jesus as our personal Savior, we are baptized into His death, burial, & resurrection. This baptism of the Holy Spirit is our true identification

as a Christian! (Water baptism is a great “picture” of this, but it is not water baptism that brings us into God’s family.) It’s the Holy Spirit’s work that gives us our new identity.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.  
- Ephesians 1:13

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.  
- Romans 8:16

The purpose of this? That we might have a NEW LIFE! (See verse 4 in Romans 6.)

The “old man” has been done away with. (See verse 6.) **HE STILL EXISTS**, but the “old man’s” power has been broken. (Compare the “destroying” of Satan in Hebrews 2:14-15. Satan still exists but Jesus broke his power and freed us from slavery.)

Just as our punishment for our sins is paid for in our *identification* with Christ’s death (see Romans 6:23), so is our new life purchased in our *identification* with Christ’s resurrection!

When Paul says “we shall also live with Him,” in verse 8, he’s not primarily referring to our life in eternity to come. He’s referring to our new life as soon as we’re born again - our present life!

**WE HAVE DIED TO SIN,  
ONCE FOR ALL!**

Most Christians are aware that Christ died, was buried and was raised again – after all, if you don’t believe that, you’re not born again!

So, just as Christ died to sin (v. 10), so did we (v. 2). Once for all! We’re dead to sin and freed from its mastery (v. 7)! Before becoming a Christian, all are in Adam (see 1 Cor. 15:21-22). Believers are in Christ. And it’s ONCE FOR ALL!

IT’S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THIS! We must see ourselves as we are in Christ. If we don’t, it’ll be our major stumbling block.

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.  
- 1 Cor. 6:9-11

The born-again believers in Corinth were wicked people. But, **NO LONGER!** When they were born-again, they became new creations with a new identity! These changed people are in Christ!

How discouraging & disrespectful it must be for our loving God to hear one of his born-again children say, “I’ve trusted Jesus. I’m saved. I’m forgiven. And I’m still a slave to sin.”

IT’S A LIE FROM THE PIT! This is what causes so many problems for so many Christians. This is why they remain defeated and immature.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.  
- Gal. 5:1

Do not let sin reign (rule) (v.12)! In the unbeliever’s life, because he has not been set free of the slavery of sin, sin rules – sin’s the master. The believer does not have to allow this to happen. Sin’s mastery has been broken!

Maybe you’d say, “But you don’t know the struggle I have!”

Friend, we all have our especially troublesome sins. It’s the same for some, different for others.

Your major sin might not be a problem for me. But mine might not be a problem for you. We all think we’re unique, but God’s answer is the same for each of us:

**CHRIST SETS US FREE!**

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. - 1 Cor. 6:19b-20

A believer really has no right to offer the parts of his body to sin as instruments of wickedness. (See verse 13.) An unbeliever does all day long, but the believer has given up that right. (This is what real repentance is all about.)

*Perhaps I can illustrate this by describing how I think real repentance is “worked out” in our lives. I compare becoming a Christian with getting married. When we’re single, in an earthly sense we we’re free to pursue various “lovers.” In a spiritual sense, our “lover” was some sort of sin, our “madness,” our addiction. But when we get married, we enter into an exclusive relationship with our spouse – no more other lovers! When we’re joined to Christ, we enter into an*

**exclusive relationship – no more other lovers! As a Christian, when we sin (when we pursue other lovers), we are committing spiritual adultery! Repentance is not only forsaking other lovers – it's giving up the right to other lovers!**

Our new Lover – the Lover of our souls – our LORD Jesus Christ is our new Master! We are to no longer allow the old lover to rule!

We're to offer ourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of our bodies to Him as instruments of righteousness. (See verse 13)

**For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.** - Romans 6:14

The law is good & right in defining sin, but provides no power for us to have victory over sin. And as we've so willingly embraced sin as our "lover," we've surely not deserved to ever be rescued from it and set free.

**THANK YOU JESUS** for Your amazing grace! Your undeserved grace brings not only deliverance from sin's penalty – grace also breaks the power of sin over us and gives us power over sin!

This is why the only hope for unbelievers is to substitute one sin for another. From alcoholic to work-a-holic. From finding peace & relief in some kind of sin, to finding peace & relief in some other kind of sin. There's really no freedom from sin outside of Christ.

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.** - Acts 4:12

The ONCE-FOR-ALL death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ (The Gospel!) is THE foundation for Christian living.

**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** - Galatians 2:20

I can't describe it 100%, but when you trust Christ, when you're born again, God performs a miraculous, spiritual act, in which the "old man" is crucified & buried. The "new creation" is now identified as "in Christ." All the authority and power of sin over your life is taken away.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** - 2 Corinthians 5:17

This doesn't mean you'll never sin again. But it does mean you'll never have to sin again. And there's never an excuse for it. You are accountable. You have been set free.

If you're unsure of your status with Jesus – whether you're still "in Adam" or you've been born again to a new standing "in Christ," please heed the instructions of God's Word:

**Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?** - 2 Corinthians 13:5

God wants you to have confidence in your relationship with Him!

**Jesus said, "The time has come! The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Gospel!"** - Mark 1:15

Repent means to turn away from the sinful ways of the world and turn to an exclusive relationship with Jesus Christ!

To believe the Gospel is to put your faith in the GOOD NEWS that:

**"...Christ died for our sins just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day..."** - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Faith in the Gospel is **LIFE-CHANGING FAITH !**  
Those God converts WILL change!

So, before entering into a life-changing, faith relationship with Jesus Christ,

**COUNT THE COST !**

**Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish."** - Luke 13:3

You MUST repent! You MUST turn away from your sins – and keep turning away for the rest of your life! In fact, repentance is the lifestyle of a healthy Christian!

At times, it will be **HARD!**

Hard or not, acceptance or refusal of this GOOD NEWS will determine your destiny.

**"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."** - John 3:36

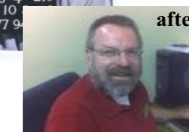
- ♥ Thank Jesus for dying for your sins,
- ♥ Declare that you're turning from your sin and turning to Him,
- ♥ Thank Jesus for rising from the dead so you can have a new life, and
- ♥ Believe on Jesus, trust Jesus, and receive Him into your life and be your Lord (your Master) and your Savior.

If you're interested in a Bible Correspondence Course or our aftercare programs, please contact Chaplain Tom at the address on the front.

# FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

Alcohol, drugs, lust, sin...

The Bible has the answers!



Jesus Christ sets us free!



Break the chains that bind you!

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